

# FI Newsletter

The Town of Fenwick Island, Delaware

Incorporated 1953

Fall and Winter 2008

**G**reetings to all of  
Fenwick Island!

Another summer has ended and we are now enjoying fall at the beach! What a beautiful time of the year. I hope everyone takes time out of their busy schedules to be in Fenwick Island to experience one of the most beautiful seasons here.

Fenwick Island is getting some facelifts this fall. Many of our streets are being repaved. The street signs are being replaced with new white posts and new sign blades. Please take a look at them when you are here and make sure you let the Public Works Department know what a nice job they are doing. Our town is beginning to take on the appearance of the pride of its residents who live here.

The Charter and Ordinance Committee and the Council have been very busy updating the Town Code and Charter as it has needed updating for quite some time. This will be an on-going task.

Please remember that you can keep abreast of what is going on in town by going to our website ([www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov](http://www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov)). We are in the process of improving this website and would like to hear from you, the user, with any suggestions. Announcements of all meetings are posted here as well as on the board outside our building and on the front entrance of the building. Our regular Council meetings are recorded if you are interested.

As the holidays quickly approach, please remember to take the time to relax and enjoy those around you. Remember those who are in need this year, and try to help those less fortunate than you. There are many ways to do this!

*Audrey Serio, Mayor*

**W**ishing each of you Happy Holidays and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year!!



*Audrey Serio  
and the Fenwick Island Town Council*

## TREE LIGHTING

### IN THE PARK

DATE AND TIME  
TO BE ANNOUNCED

Check the Town Marquee  
Or  
The Town Website



[www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov](http://www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov)  
For Information

## FENWICK ISLAND BEACH

### PATROL RECOGNIZED

### BY THE STATE OF DELAWARE

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

On October 14, Representative Gerald Hocker (38th District) presented Mayor Audrey Serio and FIBP Captain Tim Ferry with a special citation issued by the House of Representatives. On July 11, 2008 the Fenwick Island Beach Patrol was credited with the rescue of six children from a rip current. Special citations were awarded to Ben Gichner of Ocean View, Ashley Hudson of Dagsboro, and Stacy Ogden of Clearfield, PA. The people of Fenwick Island are proud of the Beach Patrol's accomplishments and commend their hard work.

## SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING FENWICK ISLAND NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Beginning Spring 2009 the Fenwick Island Newsletter will be available online only. If you do not have a computer or if you prefer to receive your newsletter by mail, please contact Town Hall. Our web address is [www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov](http://www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov).



FIBP Captain Tim Ferry and Mayor Audrey Serio receive a special citation from Rep. Gerald Hocker.

### 'Tis the Season

In the event of an approaching coastal storm, please pay close attention to the Weather Channel or weather bulletins issued by the National Weather Service. The State of Delaware and The Town of Fenwick Island issue instructions and recommendations as needed. Updated information during times of dangerous and severe weather can be heard by dialing 302.539.3011 and then selecting #5 from the menu choices offered.



## Town Manager's Report



The Town just recently completed a repaving project and the results are excellent. The Public Works Department was re-

sponsible for placing the stones along the newly paved streets. This saved the Town a considerable amount of money.

The Town will provide the Big Trash Pickup twice this year. The dates for 2009 are June 8, 9 and 10 and September 9, 10 and 11. These dates are the only times that residents can place large items out for pick up. If you need additional services throughout the year, please contact Moor Disposal directly (302.945.7824) to arrange for a quote for any additional service. Please remember to return your trash and recycle containers back to your residence or trash bin immediately after the containers are emptied.

In order to provide a more efficient and economical Town operation, this will be the last Fenwick Island Newsletter automatically mailed to property owners. The Newsletter still will be published twice a year and will be available on the Town website. If you do not have access to the internet, please call or write Town Hall and we will send the newsletter to you by mail.

If you are not able to attend a Town meeting but would like to be informed, just go to our website ([www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov](http://www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov)) and click on "Meeting Audio." This will allow you the opportunity to listen to the Council and Committee meetings.

*Tony Carson, Town Manager*

**Notice:** The Lions Club aluminum can recycling bins will remain at both the beach ends and behind town hall. Please continue to support their cause.



## Charter & Ordinance A Year in Review

The Town Council, with guidance from the Charter and Ordinance Committee, has had a busy year and the upcoming year promises to be busy again with discussions and considerations for changes throughout the Code of the Town of Fenwick Island.

The Charter and Ordinance Committee forwarded to Council two important changes to our Charter regarding "Voting" and "Borrowing." Under "Voting" the updates will follow State guidelines and allow for the Town to set up its own registration procedures. All Town property owners and other eligible voters must now register with the Town for the annual Town elections. If you've voted in the past, you must still register under this new change.

Under "Borrowing" the Council approved changes that will increase the amount of money the Town can borrow. As required for all Charter changes, the "Borrowing" changes will be forwarded to the State General Assembly for approval at its next legislative session. The "Voting" changes have already been approved by the State.

Amendments to chapter 61 (Building and Utility Construction) include a stricter enforcement of Town Code by requiring that plans for proposed utility work be reviewed by the Building Official and Public Works Official for complete compliance with all Town ordinances, roadway specifications and traffic safety and control. Further, the duration of a building permit for *new construction or substantial improvements* has been changed from 12 months to 15 months in order to allow for completion of a project in a more reasonable time-frame. However, renewals for building permits for projects not completed by the expiration date of the permit now have stricter guidelines and violations and penalties have been updated to discourage multiple renewals of building permits and incomplete projects.

Building permits for partial construction such as foundations only will no longer be issued nor will a permit be issued until a previous permit receives a "Certificate of Compliance" from the Town.

## Charter & Ordinance: A Year in Review (Continued)

Chapter 112 (Parking) was amended to include handicap requirements, inclusion of parking permitted wherever a yellow line is placed at the edge of a roadway or shoulder and how to properly display the hang tag parking permit that is issued to property owners.

Finally, Chapter 160 (Zoning) has been amended for commercial area regulations to not allow parking in the front setback areas for newly constructed buildings and require that paving in setbacks is to be constructed of pervious materials.

The Charter and Ordinance Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 AM in Town Hall. Future discussions and considerations already on the committee's agenda include changes in commercial zoning such as apartments, parking and allowable businesses, floodplain regulations as they pertain to height regulations and recommendations from both the Planning Commission and the Commercial Liaison Committee. All are welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings and to participate in discussions concerning the future of the Town.

For more information, please contact Pat Schuchman, Building Official, in Town Hall or at 302.539.3011.

### Lighthouse News!

As of June 2007, the Fenwick Island Lighthouse was opened by the "New Friends of the Lighthouse." The Lighthouse was opened this past summer and hosted many visitors.

We are looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please call 302.436.8100.

*Winnie Lewis, Lighthouse Friends*

### Fall Shuffleboard League Champs



Nancy Bartz and  
Gail Warburton  
Congratulations!





# The Fifth Annual Fenwick Freeze

Bayard Street Beach, Fenwick Island, Delaware

January 1, 2009 - 10:30 am

**The Fenwick Freeze is a great way to welcome the New Year!**  
**Join your family, friends and neighbors....put on your bathing suits and take the plunge!**  
**Event will be held regardless of rain, shine, snow or sleet!**

***All registrants will receive a commemorative shirt!***

## Registration:

	<u>Thru 12/31/08</u>	<u>on 1/1/09</u>
1 person	\$20 each	\$25 each
2-4 people	\$16 each	\$20 each
5-8 people	\$12 each	\$15 each

## How to Register:

- Now thru Dec. 24: Complete this form and mail to address below
- Dec. 30 & 31: Complete this form and take to Town Hall between the hours of 11:00am-1:00pm
- Jan. 1: Complete form and bring to Bayard Street Beach from 9:00am -10:00 am.

## Proceeds to benefit the Fenwick Island Lifeguard National Competition Fund

Mail entry form and check (made out to **FIBC** [Fenwick Island Beach Committee]) to:

***The Fenwick Freeze***

***c/o Becka McWilliams, 927 Montgomery Street, Laurel, MD 20707***

Printed Name	Shirt Size (S-M-L-XL)	E-mail	Signature - Acknowledging that you have read and agree to the release statement below

## Release Statement:

*I recognize the risks of illness and injury inherent in any exercise program. I agree to participate and assume all risks of the Fenwick Freeze Event and any related activities. In consideration of my participation in this event, I release and hold harmless the town of Fenwick Island, their affiliates, subsidiaries, principals, and directors, agents, servants, officers, employees and contractors from any and all claims, demands and causes of action of whatever nature, which I or my successors, heirs and assigns may have now or in the future in connection with my participation in this event and related activities. I agree to obey the rules of this event. I understand that there will be no refunds and the event director reserves the right to reject any entry. By signing above, I acknowledge that I have read and understand this release.*



## F I Police Department

### Tips for a safer winter ...

The colder weather will be here before we know it and there are some things that we can do to minimize problems. Keep your house warm; this does not mean 70° but around 50° so that your pipes don't freeze. Turn off your water where it enters the house to avoid under the house pipes from bursting. The last thing you need is a call from us that your water has been flowing for a week!

Unplug everything to avoid lightening strikes. Put away any outside items, beach chairs, ladders, patio furniture. Don't give an open invitation to criminals. Check you locks and windows making sure they are all working.

If you live here year-round, be our eyes and ears. Report anything that looks out of the ordinary and any suspicious activity. Be a good neighbor. If you see a streetlight that is out please call us with the location so that we can report it and get it repaired as fast as possible.

Your Police Department is here to serve you but cannot do it alone. If you see or hear something that causes concern please call the station (302.539.2000) or the patrol cell phone (302.542.8793) or the Sussex County Emergency Communications (302.855.2980). For all emergencies call 911.

Let's all work together for a safe off-season!

*William H. Boyden*  
*Chief of Police*

## Planning Commission

The Planning Commission has established the Cultural and Historic Preservation Sub-committee in order to begin implementation of certain components of the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Fenwick Island. The new sub-committee meets one hour before the monthly Planning Commission meeting, the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM.

Dr. Kim Grimes, Harry Haon, Mary Pat Kyle, Winnie Lewis, Cathy Stump, and Bill Weistling have agreed to serve on the sub-committee. Among the target activities are establishing an "oral history" databank; photo-documenting the Town's present condition; researching archival material in order to get a fuller sense of history; and collecting/scanning documents relating to the Town's past.

Your input is important to us. Our meetings are open to the public. We look forward to hearing from all of you.  
*Winnie Lewis, Planning Commission Chairperson*

## Environmental Committee News

Congratulations to the homeowners of Fenwick Island for their great response to the Town's curbside recycling program begun in October 2007. Nearly 175,000 pounds of recyclable materials has been collected by Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA) since the beginning of this program. This means that those tons did not go to the landfill and that the Town saved money in dump fees. Moreover, those materials will be reused in ways to provide other useful products.

Did you know that whatever ends up on the streets eventually finds its way to the lagoons/canals, the bays, and ultimately the ocean? Help clean up the bay and ocean by using trash containers and the recycle containers. As you walk along the streets and parking lots, see how careless some people can be and pick up trash that's been tossed by passersby.

The beach clean-up in September was very successful. Amazingly, after the clean-up, dog waste started to show up along the shoulders of Bunting Avenue, dune crossovers, and on the beach itself. Burying dog detritus is not the answer. The winter high tides will uncover what you buried and leave it on the beach for someone to find. Don't forget that the animal leash law is in effect year round. Please comply.

The Environmental Committee meets the second Wednesday of every month at 2:00 PM. The group continues to provide interesting programs that include speakers and discussions related to environmental issues that impact the town. We invite you to attend meetings and take part in the activities, such as the lagoon cleanup scheduled this winter. Audio of the meetings is on the town website.

*Buzz Henifin, Committee Chair*

## Beach Committee

The Fifth Annual Fenwick Freeze will be held on January 1, 2009 at 10:30 AM on Bayard Street. See the registration form included in this newsletter. What better way to start a new year than with a chilly dive in the beautiful Atlantic? It is with pleasure that The Fenwick Island Beach Committee works to raise funds to assist Sussex County EMS and help the FIBP participate in the USLA National Competition.

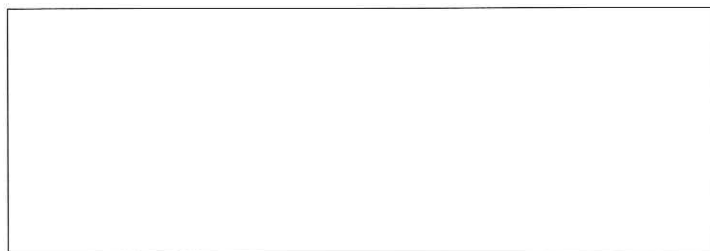
Should you need more information regarding the Fenwick Island Beach Committee, or wish to be a member, contact Councilman Todd Smallwood at town hall or Committee Chairperson Rebecca McWilliams at grif930@comcast.net.

*Becka McWilliams, Beach Committee*





Town of Fenwick Island  
800 Coastal Highway  
Fenwick Island, DE 19944



*In This Issue...*

**2009 Fenwick Freeze Application Inside!**

**FIN Newsletter, Fall/Winter 2008.** Produced & Published in Town Hall. Comments: [agnesd@fenwickisland.org](mailto:agnesd@fenwickisland.org) or 302.539.3011

**CLIP AND SAVE**



<p><b>Town Council</b></p>	<p>2008 / 2009 Council Calendar</p>	<p><u>Sussex County Habitat for Humanity:</u> In the Spring 2007 publication of the <i>Fenwick Island Newsletter</i>, residents were asked to consider donating useable household items to the Sussex County Habitat for Humanity when remodeling, putting on an addition or building a new home.</p> <p>Over the last few months, the Town was pleased to hear that some homeowners, just prior to demolishing their old homes contacted Habitat for Humanity and donated any items that could be re-used in new home construction or sold at their "Re-Store" store. Such items included appliances, ceiling fans, air conditioners, light fixtures, and windows.</p> <p>To the homeowners who so generously donated, a heartfelt "Thank You." For info call 302.855.1153 or send an email <a href="mailto:info@sussexcountyhabitat.org">info@sussexcountyhabitat.org</a></p> <p><i>Pat Schuchman</i></p>	
<p><b>Audrey Serio</b> Mayor, President of Council <a href="mailto:aserio@fenwickisland.org">aserio@fenwickisland.org</a></p> <p><b>Chris Clark</b> <a href="mailto:cclark@fenwickisland.org">cclark@fenwickisland.org</a></p> <p><b>Diane Tingle</b> Secretary <a href="mailto:dtingle@fenwickisland.org">dtingle@fenwickisland.org</a></p> <p><b>Gardner Bunting</b> Treasurer <a href="mailto:gbunting@fenwickisland.org">gbunting@fenwickisland.org</a></p> <p><b>Vicki Carmean</b> <a href="mailto:vcarmean@fenwickisland.org">vcarmean@fenwickisland.org</a></p> <p><b>Bill Weistling</b> <a href="mailto:wwleistling@fenwickisland.org">wwleistling@fenwickisland.org</a></p> <p><b>Todd Smallwood</b> Deputy Mayor <a href="mailto:tsmallwood@fenwickisland.org">tsmallwood@fenwickisland.org</a></p> <p><b>Anthony J. Carson, Jr. MPA</b> Town Manager <a href="mailto:acarson@fenwickisland.org">acarson@fenwickisland.org</a></p> <p><b>Town Hall Phone Numbers</b></p> <p><b>Phone:</b> 302.539.3011 <b>Fax:</b> 302.539.1305 <b>Police Department Phone #</b> Phone: 302.539.2000 Emergency: <b>911</b></p>	<p>Friday, December 5, 2008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Meeting 3:30pm</li> </ul> <p>Friday, January 23, 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Meeting 3:30pm</li> </ul> <p>Friday, February 27, 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Meeting 3:30pm</li> </ul> <p>Friday, March 27, 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Meeting 3:30pm</li> </ul> <p>Friday, April 24, 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Meeting 3:30pm</li> </ul> <p>Friday, May 22, 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Meeting 3:30pm</li> </ul> <p>Friday, June 26, 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Meeting 3:30pm</li> </ul>	<p><b>TOWN EVENTS</b></p> <p>Tuesday, January 1, 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fenwick Freeze 10:30am</li> </ul> <p>Tuesday, January 1, 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Hall Closed</li> </ul> <p>Friday, April 24, 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arbor Day</li> </ul> <p><b>Curbside Recycle Schedule</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 5 &amp; 19</li> <li>• January 2 &amp; 16</li> <li>• February 6 &amp; 20</li> <li>• March 6 &amp; 20</li> <li>• April 3 &amp; 17</li> <li>• May–Sept. every Friday</li> </ul> <p>More Info call Town Hall</p> <p><b>Household Hazardous Waste</b></p> <p>Drop-off Site: on Route 20 between Millsboro &amp; Seaford. Saturday May 2, 2009 For info call: 302.875.2004</p>	<p><b>Residential Trash Collection Schedule 2008—2009</b></p> <p><b>Monday only Pick-up</b> October 2008 through April 2009</p> <p><b>Monday &amp; Thursday Pick-up</b> May 2009 through September 2009</p> <p><b>Heavy Trash &amp; Appliance Pick-up</b> June 8, 9 and 10, 2009 September 9, 10 and 11, 2009</p>